

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/653,249

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant submits herewith one sheet of annotated drawings for Figure 8.

Attachment: 1 Annotated Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 9 and 10 are pending, of which claims 4, 9 and 10 are withdrawn from consideration. Accordingly, claims 1-3 have been examined in the current Office Action, and have been rejected under both 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

I. Preliminary Matters

The Examiner has objected to claims 2 and 3 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Specifically, the Examiner maintains that the recitations of claims 2 and 3 are already recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant has canceled claim 3 without prejudice or disclaimer.

In regard to claim 2, Applicant does not entirely agree with the Examiner. For example, lines 13-14 of claim 1 recite that the “operating portion” of the auxiliary operating member is provided between left and right side plates which constitute the reel body. On the other hand, claim 2 recites that the actual auxiliary operating member itself is provided between the left and right side plates which constitute the reel body. Thus, claim 1 recites just a portion of the auxiliary operating member, while claim 2 recites the entire auxiliary operating member.

Also, Applicant submits herewith an annotated drawing for Figure 8, which provides a reference numeral for a feature already shown in the elected Figure 8, but not labeled. Accordingly, Applicant has provided a brief description of such reference numeral in the specification. Such description merely describes what is shown in the figure, thus, no new

matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to approve the annotated figure.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner maintains that it is unclear what is rotated in response to the rotation of the handle, i.e., the one-way clutch or the rotating member. Applicant submits that it is the rotating member 56 that rotates in response to the rotation of the handle 5 (see non-limiting embodiments of Figs. 8-12). Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 1 in a manner believed to overcome the rejection.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,443,218 to Ciocca (“Ciocca”)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Ciocca.

A. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, claim 1 recites a plate connected between the left and right side plates to partially form an upper

surface of the reel body. The plate is respectively positioned between the operating member and a front end of the reel body, and an operating portion is projected upward from a surface of the plate.

Applicant submits that Ciocca fails to teach or suggest the above features. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 1.

B. Claims 2 and 3

Since claim 2 is dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 2 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Also, since claim 3 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claim is now moot.

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,428,908 to Cooper (“Cooper”)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Cooper.

A. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, claim 1 recites a plate connected between the left and right side plates to partially form an upper surface of the reel body. The plate is respectively positioned between the operating member and a front end of the reel body, and an operating portion is projected upward from a surface of the plate. Applicant submits that Cooper fails to teach or suggest the above features.

Further, claim 1 recites an auxiliary operating member for auxiliary winding of a fishing line on a spool.

The Examiner maintains that Cooper discloses the above feature. In particular, the Examiner maintains that trigger 29 discloses the claimed auxiliary operating member. However, trigger 29 does not allow for winding of a fishing line. Rather, the trigger 29 is used to lock all movement of the line. For example, when a user moves trigger 29 from the disengaged position of Figure 1 to the engaged position of Figure 3, the teeth 35 of the trigger 29 engage with the teeth of the pinion 36 to prevent any rotation of the spool 16 (col. 4, lines 40-69). Cooper specifically calls the trigger 29 a “locking means” (col. 4, lines 70-74). Accordingly, Applicant submits that trigger 29 does not disclose the claimed auxiliary operating member.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by the Cooper reference, and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

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B. Claims 2 and 3

Since claim 2 is dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 2 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Also, since claim 3 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claim is now moot.

V. Newly Added Claim

Applicant has added claim 11 to provide more varied protection for the present invention.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

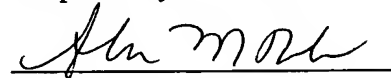
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Respectfully submitted,



Allison M. Tulino
Registration No. 48,294